A Synopsis of the Ph.D. Thesis Entitled

DEPICTION OF FEMINISM IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF ANITA DESAI & SHASHI DESHPANDE

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1. INTRODUCTION :-

Feminism has a legacy since 18th Century. It is a theory chiefly rested upon women's subordination and a political movement. The first major wave of feminism came in the 19th Century a suffragette Movement. In Indian soil, feminism being made as a revolutionizing wheel whirling from the past. The vedic history of India suggests female as a sages, Devotees. It can be claimed with Sanskrit enchanting mantra "यTM नाय! तुपुजÕतेरम तेत देवतः"[1] but in later part of history; It is in vice-versa with the ancient past. Feminism provokes gender equality. It enhances with the first step to recognize the discrimination where we live in a society. The Society does not provide stability, consistency at equal moment of time. The Indian society is made up with male ascendency in every arena of the life. Patriarchy is a social system that puts men at a powerful positions where they have social, legal, political, religious and economic authority.

The present study deals with Feminism in the writings of Anita Desai (1937) and Shashi Deshpande (1938). Anita Desai was born in 1937 in Mussoorie, India, to a German immigrant mother, Toni Nime, and a Bengali businessman, D. N. Mazumdar. Desai published her first novel, Cry The Peacock, in 1963. She considers Clear Light of Day (1980) In 1984, she published In Custody – about an Urdu poet in his declining days – which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. In 1993, she became a creative writing teacher at Massachusetts Institute of Technology Their novelistic Interpretation imbibes feminism through historically and concrete realities and levels of consciousness, perceptions and actions. This feminism seeks to define as an awareness of women oppression and exploitation in society, in inner and outer the world. Anita Desai has credited her position as a novel of character[2] she depicted a socio-cultural changes/issues of female freedom and empowerment. Let us illustration of character Raka, in her monumental creation *Fire on the Mountain*. Character Raka is full of energy and the fire in her leads her to constant exploration and action. The theme of alienation is clearly stated in the portrayal of character Raka, its childhood experience are lasting. Raka being made as liberated. This is a journey from alienation to liberation. This journey would be commenced with the detrimental effects of a stifling home environment upon the tender psyche of a young child Raka. At the same time, it is about women and their helplessness. Her another novel *In Custody* (1984) concentrates on two basic clashes between Deven's own individual self–image and the reality, and his idealized picture of Nur and the reality. She focuses on theme of marital discord and relationship problem. Most of her novels depict women trapped into unhappy marriage or unhappy homes. Salman Rushdie commented, describes Anita Desai's Subject as a solitude.[3]

Shashi Deshpande (1938) is one of the most accomplished award winning contemporary Indian women writers in English. She was born in Dharwad In Karnataka in 1938. Her writing career begins with short stories and her first novel is That *Dark Holds No Terror* in 1980. Her magnum opus novel *That Long Silence* received Sahitya Akademi Award bestowed by Sahitya Akademi in 1990. Her novel shadow play was shortlisted for The Hindu Literary Prize in 2014. Along with these novels If I die today (1982), Roots And Shadows (1983), Come Up and Be Dead (1985), That Long Silence (1988), The Binding Vine (1994), A Matter of Time (1996) and four books for children .

Deshpande's stories and novels revolves primarily around the theme of the Indian Middle Class, the problems of domesticity, lives of men and women caught in the relationship that are not of their own making. Her remarkable work *That Long Silence* (1988) signifies 'the silence' imposed on woman is partly of their own making through society and tradition have a hand. Shashi Deshpande's writings are really the outcome of her consciousness of the conflict between her idea of herself as a human being and the idea that society frames of her as a woman. As it appears in the statement of, **"One is not born but rather becomes a woman."**[4] Traditions, rituals, and religious rites, familial relations seize to women; these frames being made as an 'idea'. The character Jaya gets back to her destined role, being present to the happiness of the family and ready to subdue her emotions. Feminism purely depicted through these novels.

She possess with creative imagination. And she dealt with a fine blend of all three aspects of our lives i.e. political, and psychological. Woman too faces various dilemmas and is torn between the pulls of traditional female archetypal values and her individualistic values. The word 'compromise, adjustment along with feminism' is made and developed as a survival strategy by Shashi Deshpande. Her magnificent novel *The Holds No Terror* (1980) justifies life is full of choices. Life is full of compromises. To hold this cord of compromising themes, character Saru compromises in her life with her husband and her mother for survival. Without compromise, nothing is possible. As a girl, she has to adjust herself twice in her life, firstly in father's home and at the second stage under the shadow of father-in-laws house. Erving Goffman (Goffman, Erving. 1968 p.52) As Kailash Baral points out…..

> "Deshpande has employed a conscious strategy of embodying and embedding issues that are reflexive upon feminism anti-patriarchal stance in the narrative. Among the various issues that the novel focuses on, concepts of 'bonding' and 'bondage' are considered not only in India but world wide**.**" [5]

A sense of life balance appears through unusual character Sarita at the first stage, her inability tries to accept her husband who does not receive the kind of love and understanding. She craves from her parent particularly the mother on the other hand. The story of the novel is narrated on two levels, the present and the past.

Her another novel *Root and shadows* (1960) depicts the internal world and opinions of Indu, a character. She is radical woman. She is seen to be interim against supremacy right from her childhood. Her Ancestral home, she hated respect and inactivity as a girl child. After the death of her mother, she was taken up by her aunts, as her father left home. Indu refuses to be cowed down by Akka. The rich family tryant who dominated this family. Here, we see that feminism not only raises a voice against male dominance, but also against the woman who cherish the values of the patriarchy.

The Novelist tries to convey the message to the society; feminism takes various strands to make a sense of balance in the life. Anita Desai and her writings mainly focus on the subjugation of the women. The Childhood, psychic turmoil of a woman, gender opression suffered by Indian women. And in the novels of Shashi Deshpande envisages the actual feminism in the sense of liberation could be possible with the consciousness of the younger generation of women.

02. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM OF THE RESEARCH :-

DEPICTION OF FEMINISM IN THE SELECTD NOVELS OF ANITA DESAI AND SHASHI DESHPANDE.

03. IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY :-

Feminism believes and should have provided an equal rights and opportunities. It is a positive movement that continues to bring beneficial social change to society. Gender consciousness should have resolved the problems in society. Selected novelist explore the experiences through their pen. To purport the best in society and cultivate an egalitarian attitude for a social well-being. Both Novelists endow her characters with sufficient power to overcome their family crises and explore values. These values can give a moral vision to entire social strata.

04. HYPOTHESIS:-

Contemporary Indian writing in English glimpses on a moral vision of characters. Anita Desai and Shashi Deshpande has a major voice to provoke the society and has dealt very minutely and delicately with problems of middle class educated women. Here are some of the major issues which can be the major part of the hypothesis of the present study:

1] In Indian culture / society women are suppressed and dominated by the male.

2] Its remarkably represented as a woman is not a woman, but be by male dominated society on the basis of their status, family.

3] The Indian society does not provide social, cultural, psychological and economical freedom.

4] When understood by the female characters that they are not able to survive in the suppressed, cramped suffocating ambience, then only they think of revolting against it.

05. DATA COLLECTION:-

The data required for the present Research will be collected in two ways as-

5.1 Primary Data :

Primary data will be the novels written by Anita Desai and shashi Deshpande , which are selected for further, minute study. These novels include-

Anita Desai- 1. Fire on the Mountain (1977)

2. Clear Light of the Day (1980)

3. In Custody (1984)

Shashi Deshpande- 1. The Dark Holds No Terror (1980)

2. Roots and Shadows (1983)

3. That Long Silence (1988)

5.2 Secondary Data:

Secondary data will be collected from the different books, journals, articles, interviews, reviews, critical analysis, web materials, news papers, different reports published on the Anita Desai and Shashi Deshpande and selected novels for further study in the present research. Secondary data will also be collected from personal visits to the state level, National and International Conferences etc.

06. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:-

Critical analysis will be the central agenda of the proposed research. The basic Concepts of feminism, solitude (Alienation), male–dominated society, society framing ' ideas', Women's Suffrage will be fully explored and explained. The present study (Research Work) doesn't refered to any field work. Hence MLA Research Methodology will be strictly adhered to.

07. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH :-

Following aims and Objectives will be pursuit:

1. To explain the basic concepts of feminism, ever-changing scenario of patriarchal society.
2. To understand the socio-cultural issues of female freedom and empowerment, ideas-framing for society.
3. To explore the various dimension and trends of feminism .
4. To focus on the familial relations in patriarchal society with its ever changing means of exploitation.
5. To focus on the weapon of happy life through the essentials of feminism.
6. To emphasis the universal problems faced by the women in middle class family.
7. To make affirm the self-diginity through feministic approach.

8. To explore the new dimensions of the novels of Anita Desai and Shashi Deshpande.

8. CHAPTERIZATION:

Chapter - I : Introduction

The first chapter focuses the General Introduction of the Anita Desai and Shashi Deshpande. It illustrates the meaning of different terms employed in present study. Further it points out the Strength of Anita Desai and Shashi Deshpande, as a novelist. And narrative techniques. It also explains the scope and limitations of the present study and focuses the significance of the critical analysis methodology used in the present research.

Chapter - II : Feminism in the Novels of Anita Desai

The second chapter illustrates feminism in her *fire on the mountain*, character Raka, has to maintain independent, silent and intelligent. But introverted manner, states as she does not confide the troubles. Her another novel *In Custody*(1984) concentrates on two basic clashes between Deven's own individual self–image and the reality, and his idealized picture of Nur and the reality. She focuses on theme of marital discord and relationship problem. Another novel *clear light of day* focuses the feministic approach in the portrayal of the woman characters in the novel have less of the quality of being gently, spiritual beings full devoted to household chores and living as submissive little creatures obeying men's demand satisfactorily. The patriarchal attitude of a society towards women reflects on which feminism brings a drastic sensibility by her novel of *Clear light of day*.

CHAPTER - III : Feminism in the Novels of the Shashi Deshpande

The third chapter analyses and studied with *The Dark holds No Terror (1980*), where Saru, an influential character who responds to the patriarchal society as per their presence of mind. Next, her novelistic interpretation in the form of *Roots and Shadow*s (1983) based on choices and Marriage relations in the favor of the character Indu. Realization of their rights, authorities, responsibilities. Another novel *That Long Silence* (1980) concentrates on the most sophisticated treatment in the portrayal of Jaya and her sister. The prominent characters articulating the silent claustrophobia that grips the female persona in search of an identity both in the name and world. This identity speaks about feminism.

CHAPTER - IV : Comparative Study of Anita Desai's and Shashi Deshpande's Novels.

This is the fourth chapter analyses and formulates a comparison between Anita Desai's and Shashi Deshpande's novels. The comparison between the similarities and differences in life of characters. The male dominated society treats with the characters, their thoughts and an emergence of feminism at every moment of the life.

CHAPTER - V : CONCLUSION

The final chapter summarizes the overall findings of the research. along with the certain concluding remarks, it explains how the thematic concerns revolving around the positive movement, Feminism . Finally it is rounded up by advising the scope for the further research.

09. PROBABLE DATE OF RESEARCH COMPILATION:

The present research is proposed to be completed within the time limit as stipulated by the university.

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